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METRO COLUMNIST PAUL SULLIVAN PONDERS WHETHER ANY MEANING CAN BE DREDGED FROM THE U.S. ROYAL VISIT PAGE 11

Rinelle Harper seeks inquiry

Survivor. Savagely beaten teenager addresses Assembly of First Nations

A Manitoba teenager who was viciously assaulted and left for dead by the side of a river has added her voice to the call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

"I am Rinelle Harper and I am from the Garden Hill First Nation," the 16-year-old said tentatively as she stood in front of the Assembly of First Nations on Tuesday.

"I am here to talk about an end to violence against young (aboriginal) women."

The assembly was honouring her with a drumming ceremony at the start of a three-day meeting in Winnipeg.

"I ask that everyone here remembers a few simple words: love, kindness, respect and forgiveness," Rinelle told the crowd as her parents and older sister stood by her.

"As a survivor, I respectfully challenge you all to call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women."

Rinelle was out celebrating the end of midterms when she was attacked by two men and left for dead in the Assiniboine River. She crawled out, only to be attacked again. Two males have been arrested.

Rinelle, who has only spoken publicly a few times since the attack, was visibly nervous as she addressed the crowd of about 400.

"I understand that conversations have been happening all across the country about ending violence against indigenous women and girls. I wish to continue on with my life," she said, reading carefully from a prepared speech.

"I am thankful that I will be able to go back to school, see my friends and be with my family."

Call to action

Rinelle has been given "a gift for those who cannot speak for themselves, those who have passed on."

Grand Chief David Harper, a relative of Rinelle's, on why she must speak out

Grand Chief David Harper, who represents Manitoba northern First Nations and is related to Rinelle, said the teen is coming to grips with what she now represents to many. At first, Harper said, the teen was reluctant to speak but "now she is starting to understand why she has to speak out."

Elders have told Rinelle that she has been given "a gift," he said.

"A gift for those who cannot speak for themselves, those who have passed on," Harper said. "You're the voice for them." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rinelle Harper speaks to the Assembly of First Nations on Tuesday. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS 1

Severance debate set to end council's honeymoon period

No dice. Mayes says there's no interest in his compromise solution

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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The strife over severance for city council members may prove to be the honeymoon spoiler at 510 Main St.

Mayor Brian Bowman and Coun. Ross Eadie drew battle lines earlier this month, with Bowman calling the practice, introduced in 2011, an unnecessary "political payout" and Eadie defending it as severance in lieu of employment insurance, which municipal politicians aren't entitled to.

Coun. Brian Mayes said he's abandoned a compromise solution for Wednesday's meeting that would have seen the matter sent to the governance committee for further study.

"There doesn't seem to be any support for a compromise, so at this stage I don't plan to introduce moving it to governance," he said, adding that Bowman has not pressured members of executive policy committee to support him.

"I still would have liked a compromise, but I'm not going to throw the whole thing out, so I'm going to vote against what he's proposing."

Coun. Jeff Browaty, who proposed sending the severance motion straight on to the council meeting without EPC's recommendation, said there's a lot of interest in Bowman's motion and he's expecting an "interesting debate."

"People have some opinions on it and even different, nuanced opinions on different aspects of it. Should it apply to both councillors who choose not to run again as well as councillors who are defeated?" asked Browaty, adding he hadn't yet made a decision on how he'll vote.

"This particular motion, more so than the pay cut for EPC members and the mayor, more directly affects all of council, so I felt it was important that all of council have the opportunity to debate the proposal."

Newly elected council members are led into the chamber for their inaugural meeting on Nov. 4. Councillors will be dealing with their first hot potato, in the form of Mayor Brian Bowman's proposed axing of the money given to council members when they leave or are voted out. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

More school speed zones on the agenda

Winnipeg drivers be warned — the addition of 120 new speed zones around schools is on the agenda for Wednesday's city council meeting.

The bylaw amendment comes only a few months after the provincial government changed its Reduced-Speed School Zones Regulation.

That allowed the City of Winnipeg to act on the wishes of elected officials for more zones after years of debate.

Staff Sgt. Rob Riffel said in a press release that the reduced-speed school zones "enhance the safety of children around schools where they may not pay as much attention to vehicular traffic as older kids."

"The Winnipeg Police Service will continue to monitor speeds in these zones utilizing both traditional and photo enforcement techniques."

If approved at Wednesday's council meeting, the city expects all signs to be up by the end of February.

However, as soon as a sign is up — and that could be as early as January — the reduced-speed school zones are in effect and drivers could get ticketed if caught going too fast.

Reduced-speed school zones are in effect Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., September to June.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign

The City of Winnipeg said about 5,000 signs will be installed for all reduced-speed school zones in Winnipeg.

Missing person case

Police release pic of potential witness

Winnipeg police have released another picture of someone they'd like to speak with in connection to the disappearance of a Long Plain First Nation man last month.

Colten Pratt, 26, was last seen leaving the Marlborough Inn at 331 Smith St. around 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 6.

On Tuesday police released a picture taken from surveillance video of a man they call a potential witness in the case. The man is wearing a Mondetta jacket over a grey hoodie and blue jeans in the photo.

Pratt is aboriginal, five-foot-10, roughly 160 pounds with a thin build, short brown hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a brown plaid jacket and blue jeans. METRO

Police are asking for help in identifying this man. HANDOUT/WPS

North End

Alleged pizza robber caught

Police have made an arrest in a months-old robbery case that saw a 24-year-old female pizza driver sprayed with bear spray and robbed in the North End in the summer. Jeremy Kyle Sinclair, 22, is charged with robbery and unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted weapon. METRO

Chiefs rally against law

Transparency Act. New legislation requires salary disclosures

'Controlling and containing'

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, head of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, said it's Ottawa that must be held to account.

- The law is not about accountability, but about "controlling and containing" First Nation communities, he said.
- "If you marched in the street during Idle No More, now is the time to stand up again," he added.

Chiefs at an Assembly of First Nations meeting are calling for the aboriginal community to rise up against the federal government's transparency law that requires them to disclose their salaries online.

The Conservative government is taking six First Nations in Alberta and Saskatchewan to court to force them to comply with the law. It is also withholding "non-essential" funding from almost 50 others that failed to meet the deadline for disclosure.

The new law requires bands to post audited financial statements, as well as salaries and expenses of chiefs and councillors, on a public website.

Delbert Wapass, chief of the Thunderchild First Nation in Saskatchewan, represents one of the bands being taken to court. He said his council already shares its financial information with its members. Wapass, who has a master's degree in education, said he earns $65,000 a year.

The federal government is using the premise of transparency to attack the independence of First Nations, Wapass suggested.

"Now is the time to rise as First Nation leaders and grassroots people and defend who we are," he said Tuesday. "(Prime Minister Stephen) Harper, we're coming."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt has said the law makes financial information more accessible to band members.

First Nations "deserve transparency and accountability from their elected leaders," he said in a statement Monday announcing the court action. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police serve up pancakes

Two-year-old Taelynn Scammell gets ready to dig into a plate of pancakes, sausage and eggs served up by Winnipeg police officers at the Little Hands/Loving Hearts Complimentary Christmas Pancake Breakfast at the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg Tuesday morning. Donations made during the breakfast, presented by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Winnipeg Police Service, helped raise money towards programming at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Humane society. Shelter offers promotion on dogs

It's the dog days of winter at the Winnipeg Humane Society.

With dozens of dogs already looking for homes for the holidays — and more expected to come in this week — the animal shelter is offering a special promotion.

On Thursday all adult dogs six months and older will be $50, and puppies will be $99.

Quoted

"These events are always very successful in helping our dogs ... find their forever homes."

Adoptions manager Judy Dean

"We've seen an increased number of dogs coming in this year," the society's adoptions manager, Judy Dean, said in a release Tuesday. "This will be our fourth dog promotion this year. These events are always very successful in helping our dogs — many of which have been here for months — find their forever homes."

The Winnipeg Humane Society is offering a promotion on the fee to adopt dogs and puppies this Thursday. Boo is just one of dozens of pups available. COURTESY WHS

Last year the WHS took in 1,589 dogs and so far this year, the shelter's taken in 1,646 dogs and puppies. METRO

Aboriginal people face 'serious hurdles' moving to city: Report

Affordable housing. Poverty, culture shift found to be among causes of challenges

SHANE GIBSON
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Aboriginal people moving to Winnipeg face unique challenges and are among the most likely to experience homelessness or live in housing that is unaffordable, overcrowded or in poor condition, according to a report released Tuesday.

Authors of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) report studied the housing experiences related by clients of Eagle Urban Transition Centre (EUTC) — an aboriginal-run agency helping First Nations, Métis and Inuit people move to the city.

"We found that aboriginal people coming to Winnipeg face serious hurdles in finding housing," said Josh Brandon, co-author of the report, which is called Moving to the City: Housing and Aboriginal Migration to Winnipeg. "Without being securely housed, finding employment, education or accessing health care ... these become walls that are next to impossible to overcome."

Brandon said aboriginal people face higher rates of poverty, which can leave them unable to afford housing in Winnipeg. He also pointed to the cultural differences aboriginal people find in the city as a barrier to their successful transition.

Recommendations in the 46-page report include increasing co-operation between all levels of government so aboriginal people don't lose services during their transitions, increasing funding for the EUTC and making improvements to access to transition centres in other cities.

Josh Brandon, co-author of Moving to the City: Housing and Aboriginal Migration to Winnipeg, speaks at the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives report's launch Tuesday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

The report's sponsors include the Province of Manitoba, and Kerri Irvin-Ross, the minister of housing and community development, said her government will look at implementing its recommendations. "Obviously, with the findings of this report, we have a lot more work to do," she said.

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End sharing of information derived from torture: NDP

Canadian directives criticized. A new U.S. report says that torture does not yield valuable information in fight against terrorism

The official Opposition pointed to a new U.S. report that discredits torture in renewing a call for the Conservative government to rescind its information-sharing policy.

The long-anticipated U.S. Senate intelligence committee report concludes the Central Intelligence Agency's use of simulated drowning, confinement in small spaces, sleep deprivation and threats of violence against family members did not yield valuable information in the post-9/11 fight against terrorism.

In the House of Commons, New Democrat MP Peter Julian said Tuesday the conclusion to be drawn from the American report is simple: Torture doesn't work. However, Julian pointed out, the Canadian government has issued directives to several police and security agencies allowing them to use and share information derived using brutal methods.

The instructions give five federal agencies — the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP, the military, Canada Border Services and the Communications Security Establishment — the go-ahead to exchange information with a foreign partner even when doing so may give rise to a substantial risk of torture.

A federal framework document obtained through the Access to Information Act outlines a "consistent process of decision making" across departments and agencies when the exchange of national security-related information puts someone at serious risk of being abused.

Julian said the Harper government's acceptance of torture had repudiated basic Canadian values.

"Will the government rescind these directives immediately?" he asked.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper ignored the demand.

"This is a report of the United States Senate," Harper told the Commons. "It has nothing to do whatsoever with the government of Canada."

The Canadian policy has drawn criticism from human rights advocates and opposition MPs who say it effectively condones torture, violating international law and Canada's United Nations commitments.

The federal framework says when there is a "substantial risk" that sending information to — or soliciting information from — a foreign agency would result in torture, the responsible deputy minister or agency head should be consulted.

In deciding what to do, the agency head is supposed to consider factors such as the threat to national security and the nature and imminence of the threat; the status of Canada's relationship with — and the human rights record of — the foreign agency; and the rationale for believing that sharing the information would lead to torture. THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more on the report from the U.S. Senate intelligence committee, see page 8.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper answers a question during question period on Tuesday in the House of Commons. The NDP renewed its calls for the Conservative government to rescind its information-sharing policy in light of a new report from the U.S. Senate intelligence committee. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maher Arar

Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, was detained in New York in 2002 and shipped overseas by U.S. authorities, ending up in a filthy Damascus prison. Under torture, he gave false confessions about involvement with al-Qaida.

- A federal commission of inquiry, led by Justice Dennis O'Connor, concluded that flawed information the RCMP handed to the Americans after the 9/11 attacks likely led to Arar's torture.
- O'Connor recommended that information never be provided to a foreign country where there is a credible risk it will cause or contribute to the use of torture.

Veterans charter a 'Liberal policy': Harper

The new veterans charter, a marquee deal defended and championed by Stephen Harper's Conservatives since 2006, suddenly became a "Liberal policy" Tuesday as the government weathered more demands for Julian Fantino's resignation.

The veterans affairs minister, who was on his feet constantly during the previous day's question period, rose infrequently on Tuesday in the face of an unrelenting barrage of NDP and Liberal attacks.

Instead, he was defended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who tried to put some political distance between his government and a class-action lawsuit in B.C. that argues the charter is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

"It's actually a court case against the previous Liberal policy," Harper told the House, prompting catcalls of "shame" from the opposition benches.

"In any case, we have repeatedly enhanced the benefits under that policy to the tune of some $5 billion, opposed every step of the way by the Liberal party, who has voted against all those benefits," Harper said.

The charter was conceived and passed by Paul Martin's Liberals with the support of all parties. It was put into force by Harper's Conservatives as one of their first acts after forming a minority government in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

One of the long-lost vacation photos that was returned to Emily D'Mello of Surrey, B.C., who lost her camera underwater in Cuba three years ago. From left, Madisen Singer, Emily D'Mello and Hailey Olson. CONTRIBUTED

Woman reunited with lost photos

Facebook. Scuba diver in Cuba found B.C. vacationer's camera and profile years later

THANDI FLETCHER
Metro in Vancouver

When Emily D'Mello felt her camera slip out of her fingers into the ocean three years ago, she thought she'd lost her vacation photos forever.

"My dad had bought me this drop-proof, waterproof camera because I tend to break things," she told Metro, adding with a laugh: "But I still ended up losing it."

The Surrey, B.C., woman was vacationing with friends in Varadero, Cuba, in December 2011 when she was hit by a wave on the beach that knocked the camera from her hands.

"We looked for it for about 20 minutes but it was long gone," she said.

But last week, D'Mello received an early Christmas present when she checked her Facebook inbox.

There, she was stunned to find one of the long-lost photos along with a message from Ruben Urquiza, who identified himself as a scuba diver in Cuba who had found her camera in the ocean about a year ago.

"I just thought it was insane," she said with a laugh. "It's like one of those things that you see on Facebook and think, 'That's not real.'"

Although the camera was "pretty damaged," the memory card inside had been preserved and, along with it, D'Mello's vacation photos and videos.

Urquiza, who didn't immediately have Internet access, told her that he eventually managed to track her down online after finding identifying information on one of the images.

Quoted

"It's like one of those things that you see on Facebook and think, 'That's not real.'"

Emily D'Mello, on her reaction to being sent her old vacation pictures

"I think I took a picture of my plane ticket, which had my name on it," she recalled.

On Tuesday, D'Mello said she was still in shock. She hopes to one day return to Cuba with her friends and to thank Urquiza in person.

In the meantime, she said she plans on sending a Christmas present to show him her gratitude.

"It's so awesome," she said. "I don't care about the camera. It's just so nice that, almost three years later, I'm getting to see all these photos again."

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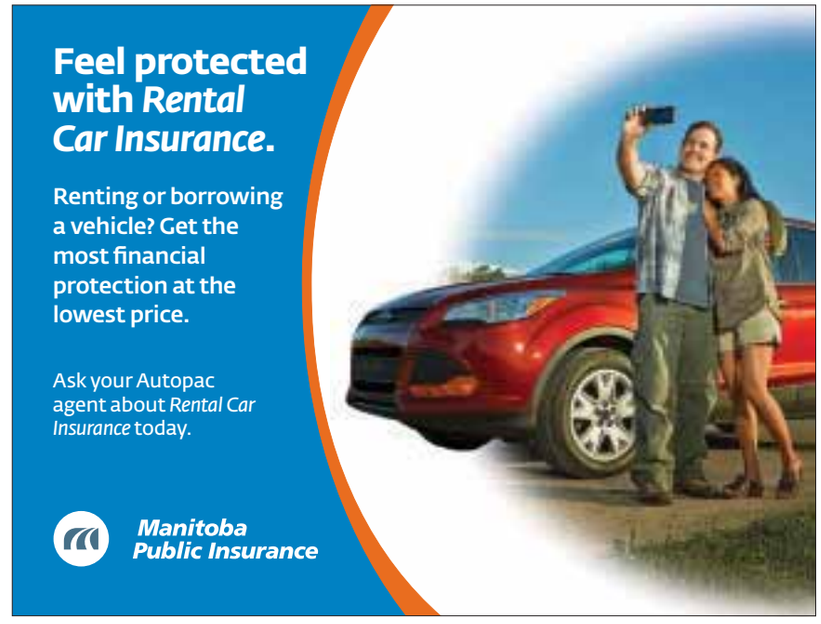
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Torture did not make America safer: Report

Misleading. Senate committee says CIA deceived U.S. about methods' effectiveness

Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is surrounded by reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday as she leaves the Senate chamber after releasing a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The United States brutalized scores of terror suspects with interrogation tactics that turned secret Central Intelligence Agency prisons into chambers of suffering and did nothing to make America safer after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Senate investigators concluded Tuesday.

The Senate Intelligence Committee's torture report, years in the making, accused the CIA of misleading its political masters about what it was doing with its "black site" captives and deceiving the nation about the effectiveness of its techniques.

The report was the first public accounting of tactics employed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and it described far harsher actions than had been widely known.

Tactics included confinement to small boxes, weeks of sleep deprivation, simulated drowning, slapping and slamming, and threats to kill, harm or sexually abuse families of the captives.

But the "enhanced interrogation techniques" didn't produce the results that really mattered, the report asserts in its most controversial conclusion. It cites CIA cables, emails and interview transcripts to rebut the central justification for torture — that it thwarted terror plots and saved American lives.

In a statement, CIA Director John Brennan said the agency made mistakes and has learned from them. But he also asserted the coercive techniques "did produce intelligence that helped thwart attack plans, capture terrorists and save lives."

George Tenet, CIA director at the time, said in an interview that the program led to the capture of al-Qaida leaders.

Top Republicans, including Senate leader Mitch McConnell, agreed. But not Democrat Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader. He said, "It got us nothing except a bad name." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We gave up much in the expectation that torture would make us safer. Too much."

Sen. John McCain, who, unlike most of his fellow Republicans, welcomed the report and endorsed its findings

Revealed

Six major findings from the newly released summary:

- Interrogation techniques used on terror detainees were ineffective.
- Prison conditions and interrogations were more brutal than the CIA acknowledged.
- Much of the information the CIA provided to the media was inaccurate.
- Two psychologists who had no experience in interrogations or counter-terrorism invented the program that was used.
- The CIA actively impeded or avoided congressional oversight.
- CIA officials often gave inaccurate information to the Bush administration.

Torture methods

'Enhanced interrogation techniques'

Thirteen interrogation methods are at the centre of the report:

1. Abdominal Slap
Interrogator hits detainee with back of hand.

2. Attention Grasp
Interrogator grabs detainee by the collar.

3. Cramped Confinement
Interrogator puts detainee in a box for up to 18 hours.

4. Dietary Manipulation
Detainee switched from solid foods to liquid.

5. The Facial Hold
Interrogator holds detainee's head so it can't move.

6. The Facial Slap

7. Nudity
Detainee forced to stand nude for prolonged periods.

8. Stress Positions
Detainee forced to hold uncomfortable poses indefinitely.

9. Sleep Deprivation
Detainee kept awake for up to 180 hours, often standing or in a stress position.

10. Wall Standing
Detainee made to stare at wall with arms out, indefinitely.

11. Walling
Interrogator slams detainee against a wall, repeatedly.

12. Waterboarding
Detainee strapped to board or bench, interrogator pours water over face to simulate drowning.

13. Water Dousing
Naked, shackled detainees held down on tarp with cold water poured or hosed over them repeatedly.

Man killed had bipolar disorder

Brooklyn. Calvin Peters was shot dead by police after stabbing a student

Stabbing victim Levi Rosenblat
CHABAD.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An emotionally disturbed man stabbed an Israeli student in the head at an international Jewish organization in Brooklyn, N.Y., early Tuesday, then was shot and killed by a police officer after lunging at him with a knife, authorities said.

Calvin Peters, 49, can be seen on video waving a knife in the Chabad-Lubavitch headquarters after police say he stabbed Levi Rosenblat in the temple, according to Chabad-Lubavitch spokesman Rabbi Motti Seligson. Rosenblat was listed in stable condition.

A clip posted online shows Peters with a knife in hand, surrounded by officers with drawn weapons and students wearing traditional Orthodox clothing.

Some of them appear to be trying to defuse the situation, urging Peters to calm down. He eventually puts the knife down and steps away, but picks it up again as the officer approaches, apparently in an attempt to arrest him. Officers then yell at him to drop the knife as Peters moves around unpredictably. A gunshot is heard. Police say Peters lunged with the knife at the officer and was fatally shot by an officer.

Peters had a documented history of mental illness and had been arrested 19 times since 1982, police said. Detectives don't suspect terrorism.

"Calvin Peters was a loving and devoted father," said attorney Jeffrey A. St. Clair. "The family is quite frankly shocked and disappointed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shelter from Hagupit

Typhoon evacuees walk home with their sheets and pillows after spending two nights in an evacuation centre at Quezon city, Philippines, on Tuesday. A storm that began as a frighteningly powerful typhoon started to blow away from the Philippines Tuesday, after leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing more than a million into shelters. Hagupit dissipated into a tropical depression and was blowing into the South China Sea, forecasters said. BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report on Gaza strikes

Israel accused of war crimes

Amnesty International says Israel apparently committed war crimes when it flattened four landmark buildings during its military operation in the Gaza Strip last summer.

In a report, the London-based rights group said Tuesday that the airstrikes amounted to "the deliberate targeting of civilian objects." It said targeting civilians is a "serious violation" of the international rules of war.

During 50 days of fighting, Israel carried out hundreds of airstrikes. In the closing days of the war, it flattened a shopping mall in the southern town of Rafah and three highrise buildings in Gaza City. Israel warned residents to flee ahead of time, but Amnesty says dozens of people were wounded there and hundreds left homeless. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem tensions

Poll: Palestinians support attacks

An overwhelming majority of Palestinians support a recent spate of attacks on Israelis amid heightened tensions over the most sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, according to a poll released Tuesday.

The poll found that more than half support an uprising against Israel and that Hamas would win elections if held today. Pollster Khalil Shikaki said results reflected anger over Israeli statements about the holy site as well as a loss of hope following the collapse of peace talks and Israel's recent war in Gaza.

Prominent members of Israel's government have demanded that Jews be allowed to pray at the site of the Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Many fear this is a pretext for a gradual takeover — a claim Israel denies.

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Amazon. Buyers can make offers below listing price

Amazon wants you to make an offer sellers won't want to refuse.

For the first time, the largest U.S. online retailer is letting some third-party sellers offer an option where interested buyers can make an offer on an item lower than the listed price.

The seller can then accept, counter or reject the offer. The new service comes in the midst of the busy holiday shopping season, which can account for 20 per cent of annual revenues.

About 150,000 of the millions of items for sale on Amazon are eligible for the service, but that will expand to more third-party sellers in 2015. It is not available for the items that Amazon sells directly.

The eligible products are mainly collectibles, including sports and entertainment collectibles such as signed jerseys, posters and helmets, fine art paintings and historical documents.

The service lets "sellers ... communicate and negotiate directly with customers in an online marketplace environment just like they do normally in their own physical store or gallery," said Peter Faricy, vice-president for Amazon Marketplace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 87.41¢ (+0.32¢)

Natural gas: $3.65 US (+0.05)
Dow Jones: 17,801.20 (-51.28)

TSX 14, 195.73 (+51.56)

OIL $63.82 US (+0.77¢)

GOLD $1,232 US (+37.10)

Ottawa tackles price gap for goods sold in Canada, U.S.

Two-year-old Finn Mowder listens as Industry Minister James Moore, background, makes an announcement in a toy store in Toronto on Tuesday. Moore announced legislation aimed at ensuring prices in Canada are not unfairly higher than those in the U.S. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price Transparency Act. Legislation meant to name and shame those manufacturers that sell goods for more north of border

The federal government has announced new legislation that is meant to tackle the persistent price gap between goods in the U.S. and Canada.

The Price Transparency Act, tabled in Ottawa Tuesday, is designed to "name and shame" manufacturers and distributors that demand higher prices for goods in Canada, Industry Minister James Moore said.

"This legislation will not set or regulate prices in Canada," he told reporters at a news conference held at a Toys "R" Us store in Etobicoke.

The announcement follows through on a commitment the government made in its 2014 budget, following a Senate investigation into the reasons for the pricing gap.

The legislation would give the federal Competition Commissioner the power to collect evidence on so-called cross-border price gouging and publicly report its findings.

The commissioner would get tools to investigate cases of alleged price discrimination and the power to compel the production of evidence to expose discriminatory pricing practices.

"We think this is an effective tool" that will result in "immediate downward pressure on prices," Moore said. "We believe those who are engaging in this practice … will abandon it."

While there are some legitimate cost differences between selling U.S. and Canadian goods, studies have shown that Canadians routinely pay between 10 and 25 per cent more than U.S. shoppers for television sets, cars and tires. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VOICES

THEY EVEN SMILE CAREFULLY

While trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness, as British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand. Wait, what was the brand again?

PAUL SULLIVAN
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The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a.k.a. Will and Kate, have just finished wandering amiably, if somewhat aimlessly, around Manhattan, leading us all once again to wonder why.

I mean what was the point? To hang out with Jay-Z and Beyoncé at courtside to watch LeBron James? To make a speech about trafficking in endangered animal parts? To lay yet another wreath at the 9/11 memorial? To see how Kate handles being five months pregnant (with her usual poise and aplomb)?

Trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness. They're a nice enough young couple, which in itself is worth applauding when you consider other members of the family, including the Duke's own brother, Sir Harry Hijinks, or his dad, the Prince of Embarrassing Things.

So rather than leave Americans with a bad taste in their mouths from the last royal visit — Harry's assault on Vegas that failed to stay in Vegas — why not send that nice young couple? Everyone smiles and bows and then they go home for more of the same: Deferential adoration.

As British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand — which is great until we start asking, "So what's the brand, again?" The bad old days made sense: Back when Charles and Diana were poisoning each other's PR and a Texas financier was sucking the Duchess of York's toes, the monarchy was collapsing like the corrupt spent force we all assumed it had become.

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Bobbleheads of state

As Paul McCartney famously wrote: 'Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say.' Which goes double for Will and Kate ...

But now that the artlessly dignified couple has pulled its ashes out of the fire, the monarchy has become a force again. Three-quarters of Her Majesty's subjects believe that it will survive at least until little Prince George is old enough to be king. Not so long ago, when Diana was getting riding lessons from the cavalry, the House of Windsor was under self-inflicted siege.

Too bad this post-modern Restoration takes us back to the safe, stuffy and utterly pointless exercise it had become under Queen E II. As Paul McCartney famously wrote: "Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say." Which goes double for Will and Kate, who even smile carefully. Is that what the British people want for their annual royal subsidy of 36 million pounds? Closer to home, is that what Canadians want from our bobbleheads of state?

Poor Will is reduced to sticking up for a few other endangered animals, because he's constitutionally barred from saying anything about the real issues: Home-grown terrorism, unemployment, immigration — you know, the actual news headlines arranged around the celebrity photos of Kate's latest thrilling frock.

Ironic, isn't it?

The more civil the behaviour, the less relevant the Royal.

Maybe it's time to let Harry and Aunt Sarah out of the bag again and send them somewhere interesting, like Cannes or Rio.

It may be short, but it could be sweet.

More than just books: Why libraries empower us all

MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in Toronto

Take a look at our libraries, and you can read us like a book. Mention public services, and the mind leaps to health care or police, or maybe garbage collection, transit or road repairs. Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

But library services need to be at the forefront of modern public services, sweeping away that dusty old image, and here's why. Libraries are far more important than many people think. They unlock our potential to learn, and modern times have seen them branch out to far more than just books.

In Toronto, for example, public library staff report that 72 per cent of citizens visited a library within the past year, with individual "uses" — and that's in every imaginable way — hitting almost 97 million in 2013. Interestingly, the city's engagement with paper books has been dropping steadily. In the decade to 2013, use of collections in-person at libraries dropped by 27.3 per cent. But the use of electronic collections, including e-books, doubled in 2011, then 2012 and again in 2013. They now represent 10 per cent of the circulation of books in Toronto's libraries.

Sweeping away that old dusty image

Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

The trend is not limited to big cities. In neighbourhoods across Canada, libraries are feeding the appetite for information in the information age.

A library is still a way to find information, but you can also make connections, attend events, hear music, access the Internet and more. There are educational programs, art exhibits, reading clubs, talks and social gatherings. You can find 3D printers, toys and havens for newcomers, new mothers and the elderly. Canada spends more than $1 billion a year on libraries from public funds, at different levels of government, and has done so every year since 2008-09, according to Statistics Canada, and that shows the degree to which we value these institutions.

Calgary's building a beautiful new central library, at a cost of $245 million, with a four-storey central atrium and a huge skylight to shed light on the more than half a million books the place will hold when it's completed in 2018. Halifax's new central library, costing more than $50 million, opens next week, and the excitement level is high.

Investment in library services is a measure of a society, and Canada's investment is in the future. With newcomers pouring in every year — in 2013, this country welcomed more than 270,000 new permanent residents alone — the need to learn is greater than ever before.

When the people of Canada improve themselves, Canada improves. So, as municipalities get ready to set their budgets for the coming year, they need to be kind to their libraries.

It's an investment in us all.

metro
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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jessica Alba ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Sony hack reveals how celebs give aliases a bad name

The Sony hack is the gift that keeps on giving for fans of entertainment industry schadenfreude. While we certainly don't condone employees having their Social Security Numbers released or families threatened via email, there has been a certain degree of pleasure in seeing how they really feel about Adam Sandler movies. And the latest bit of info may be the best.

A document has surfaced featuring contact information used during filming, including the fake names celebrities go by to remain undetected. And oh my, these are fantastic.

Some sound like dime-store detectives — ahem, Tom Hanks — while some like porn stars — looking at you, Tobey Maguire. Some, like Ice Cube, just use their real-life names, which is boring. And Taye Diggs apparently just wants people to think he's someone related to Taye Diggs. But the absolute best? Jessica Alba, who apparently goes by the code name Cash Money.

Here's the list:

- Tom Hanks: Harry Lauder and Johnny Madrid
- Sarah Michelle Gellar: Neely O'Hara
- Tobey Maguire: Neil Deep
- Natalie Portman: Lauren Brown
- Clive Owen: Robert Fenton
- Rob Schneider: Nazzo Good
- Taye Diggs: Scott Diggs
- Jude Law: Mr. Perry
- Daniel Craig: Olwen Williams
- Ice Cube: Darius Stone and O'Shea Jackson
- Debra Messing: Ava Harper
- Jessica Alba: Cash Money

YouTube star Connor Franta comes out

Super-popular YouTube star Connor Franta recently announced to his 3.6 million YouTube subscribers and 2.37 million Twitter followers that he is gay in a heartfelt video.

If you're not sure what a Connor Franta is, go ask a teenager. Anyway: "2014 is truly the year that I have accepted who I am and become happy with that person. So today I want to talk to you guys about that and be open and honest, and tell you that I'm gay," Franta says in the video.

Franta joined YouTube in 2010 and until earlier this year was a part of the successful vlog channel Our2ndLife.

Though he'd previously denied speculation about his sexuality, he explains in his coming-out video that it had taken him a long time to accept himself. "I was tired of running. I was tired of hiding," he says. "I just want to be me and not be afraid."

His fans have been very, very supportive — well, most of them, at least.

Connor Franta

It's all over for Kate Hudson and Muse frontman

Kate Hudson's engagement to Muse frontman Matthew Bellamy is officially over, as the couple have scrapped their four-year-old plans to get hitched, according to People magazine.

"Kate and Matt have been separated for some time now," says Hudson's rep, who is clearly disappointed that we're just noticing now. "Despite this, they remain very close friends and committed co-parents." Their son, Bingham, was born in 2011, three months after Bellamy proposed to Hudson.

Kate Hudson

Grumpy Cat purrs down a cool $100M? Surly not!

Tell the Internet it can calm down, because that report in the Express about online sensation Grumpy Cat pulling in $100 million? Let's just file that under "wildly inaccurate."

Proud owner of Grumpy Cat, Tabatha Bundesen, tells the paper, "I was able to quit my job as a waitress within days of her first appearance on social media, and the phone simply hasn't stopped ringing since," which is either hyperbole or a terrifying way to live. But Bundesen tells the Huffington Post that while Grumpy Cat has pulled in plenty of cash thanks to appearances, endorsements and a new Lifetime Christmas movie, the Express is way off with its $100 million claim.

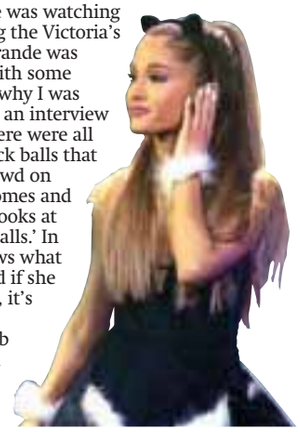
But Lil Bub? That guy's totally a billionaire.

Grumpy Cat

Ariana's naughty aside a nice surprise for Sheeran

Apparently while everyone else was watching models strut the runway during the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, Ariana Grande was making Ed Sheeran crack up with some risqué humour. "Can I tell you why I was laughing?" Sheeran explains in an interview with Elvis Duran. "Basically, there were all these big inflatable bouncy black balls that are bouncing around in the crowd on the finale bit. Ariana Grande comes and stands up next to me and just looks at me and goes, 'I love big black balls.' In my head I was like, 'If she knows what that means, then I love her, and if she doesn't know what that means, it's even better.'"

I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that she does in fact know what that means.



Ariana Grande

Skulduggery, greed and sex: This Marco Polo is no game

Streaming. Think GOT with martial arts as Netflix series follows 13th-century explorer on the Silk Road to the court of Kublai Kahn

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Olivia Cheng, left, and Joan Chen star in a 10-part Netflix series about Marco Polo. PHIL BRAY FOR NETFLIX

A year ago, Edmonton-born actress Olivia Cheng says she was familiar with Marco Polo as an Italian traveller "and I obviously knew about the swimming pool game, but that is about it."

Now, as the star of the new Netflix adventure series about Polo's early years, she's captivated by the story.

"When I saw the first script I said, 'Where's the second script? Then the third, fourth, fifth…'"

The handsome 10-episode season follows Polo's travels on the Silk Road to the court of Mongolian emperor Kublai Kahn.

It's a study of political skulduggery, greed and sexual politics, 13th-century style.

Imagine Game of Thrones with martial arts and an international cast headed by Rick The Fast and the Furious Yune and Joan Chen and you get the idea.

"All of my stuff was shot in studio in Malaysia," says Cheng, who spent five months on location.

"I've never had an opportunity to immerse myself so fully in a role and be able to focus like that. You're almost in a cocoon or a bubble, where you are constantly thinking about the story, constantly thinking about the nuances. I would often walk from set to set watching different scenes. I just got to immerse myself in the world of Marco Polo and experience a cultural adventure that I'm really grateful for."

The actress, who also plays Linda Park on Arrow and The Flash, says the show's elaborately tailored wardrobe helped her find the character of Mei Lin, a royal concubine and martial arts expert.

"When you have the beautiful costumes, you are able to step into a world and suddenly it informs you," she says.

"That is a huge gift as an actor because a costume can make you move a certain way; you are in your body in a certain way because of the weight of the material. For me, I felt like it made me so much more graceful. You have to be, in order not to trip in those costumes."

But just as interesting as watching the world of Marco Polo being built was a scene where she tries to pull it all apart.

"I can't tell you how amazing it was to get to film White Moon — this epic fight scene with 200 extras all dressed in white," she says.

"I felt so grateful because I saw all the effort it took to create this world for me to run in and try and destroy it."

TV. Leoni head over heels for Madam Secretary role

Tea Leoni CONTRIBUTED

It took surprisingly little for Tea Leoni to take on a lead role in a network television show — which she did for the freshman political drama Madam Secretary — just word from her kids that they'd rather not have her around the house that much.

"I'd been struggling for a while with this idea of committing to something that could be — potentially, we hope — a long endeavour," she remembers. "I was walking across the street with my son, who's 12, and I said, 'I'm thinking about doing this thing. If I do this, I could be very busy for a while.' He looks up at me and is like, 'Mom, it's totally fine.' I was like, 'Really?' And he says, 'Yeah. We were really getting sick of you anyway.' So it was great to have that blessing, honestly."

On the series, Leoni plays U.S. Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord, and she admits that a lot of people have jumped to a pretty obvious conclusion when it comes to her model for the character — former Secretary of State and presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. But she insists they're completely off-base.

"I've certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it's the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, 'No, it's Kissinger,' but whatever," Leoni jokes. "The truth is the first place in my mind that I went was not toward a particular political figure or in particular a female Secretary of State, since we've had three. I thought more about my grandmother — who founded the U.S. fund for UNICEF, who was the volunteer president for almost 30 years and raised five kids and 27 grandchildren — and what it was for her to be travelling around the world and coming home and being a mother. I think about my friends who are up to it, who are working mothers and what that's about."

Leoni, for her part, finds Secretary McCord incredibly easy to relate to. "I certainly do when I think about the heels that I'm wearing and the hours that I keep and my children at home. Those three things are very much the same," she says.

"The shoes, God damn it, can we just talk about the shoes? I tell you, that's the hardest part of my job. I am in high heels for sometimes 17 hours in a day. My feet are killing me. I don't know how we do it. I can't even imagine how John Kerry's handling it."

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Quoted

"I've certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it's the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, 'No, it's Kissinger,' but whatever."

Tea Leoni, jokes about assumptions her Madam Secretary is based on Hillary Clinton

Obama sends himself up on Colbert Report's The Word

President Barack Obama talks with Stephen Colbert of The Colbert Report. SUSAN WALSH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

His daughters mock his big ears, he leaves his socks on the floor and sitting behind Stephen Colbert's desk, he said, gives him a greater sense of power.

When President Barack Obama was not seriously defending his economic record, his executive actions on immigration and his delayed decision on the Keystone XL oil pipeline Monday on The Colbert Report, he was playfully confiding that the trappings of the presidency really don't go to his head.

"When I go home, Michelle, Malia and Sasha give me a hard time," he told host Stephen Colbert. "There are no trumpets, and they tease me mercilessly."

It was Obama's third appearance on the show, his second as president, and marked the beginning of the final two weeks for the Comedy Central program. Colbert will take over for David Letterman on CBS' Late Show next year.

Obama kicked off the show sitting in for Colbert to perform a regular feature of the program called The Word wherein Colbert's rants are accompanied by snarky messages to the audience.

So when Obama, as Colbert, declared that there are aspects of Obamacare that people from both parties actually like, the text aside to the audience read: "Everything but the Obama."

Later, Colbert accused Obama of exceeding his authority on immigration. "When did you decide to burn the Constitution and become emperor?" he asked.

Obama dropped the comedy and replied: "Actually, Steve, everything that we have done is scrupulously within the law and has been done by previous Democratic and Republican presidents."

As he wrapped up, Colbert had one last question: "Barack Obama — great president or the greatest president?"

"I'm going to let someone else decide — not you, but someone who knows what they're talking about," the president replied.

Colbert countered: "Stephen Colbert — great pundit or the greatest pundit?"

Obama didn't miss a beat: "The greatest pundit."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snow much more than skiing

Winter wonderlands. Alpine sports are the big draw at many of these resorts, but they also do a good job of entertaining the chalet dwellers

While skiers are hitting the slopes, non-skiers can soak in the mineral pool at The Fairmont Banff Springs. AFP FILE

It may seem that skiers hold a monopoly over winter. But luxury ski resorts are increasingly recognizing that winter doesn't only belong to snow bunnies by launching innovative new activities — think snow paragliding and igloo building — for their non-skiing guests.

For couples who have a hard time reconciling one person's ski needs and the other person's aversion to frozen toes and broken limbs, online booking site Trivago has curated a list of some of the most luxurious hotels that double as wintry fairylands.

The Omni Homestead, Hot Springs, Va.

While your partner heads out to carve snow, take a soak in the outdoor, adult-only hot springs at The Omni Homestead tucked into the Allegheny Mountains. The property, which has hosted 22 U.S. presidents, sits on the largest private hot springs in Virginia. Once you're sufficiently warm and toasty, head over to the on-site movie theatre. Other activities include ice skating, snow tubing, and snowmobile tours.

Les Airelles, Courchevel, France

Famed for its world-class skiing, the village of Courchevel 1850 is part of Les Trois Vallées, the largest ski area in the world. At Hotel de Charme Les Airelles, adventure seekers can explore the area by horse, snowmobile, snowshoe, or even helicopter. Gastronomes can look forward to Michelin-grade fare at Pierre Gagnaire for Les Airelles.

The Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alta.

It's called Canada's 'Castle in the Rockies,' for good reason. Guests have a slew of winter sports activities to choose from at the stunning, 19th-century property, including canyon ice walking, dog sledding, ice fishing, and the very Canadian sport of curling. Thaw out at Banff's hot springs or at the hotel's mineral pool.

The Cambrian, Adelboden, Switzerland

This one's for the design hound who values the importance of esthetics. Contemporary and minimal in design with cowhide accents and luxury furnishings from B&B Italia, Porada and Knoll International, all rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, DVD player and Wi-Fi. Non-ski activities include snow tubing, winter hiking, igloo building, ice climbing, night sledding, and even snow paragliding.

The St. Regis Aspen Resort boasts the best spa in the world, as named by Travel + Leisure magazine. AFP FILE

St. Regis Aspen Resort, Aspen, Colo.

One of St. Regis's biggest non-ski assets is its Remede Spa, which holds the distinction of being named best spa in the world by Travel + Leisure magazine. After a tiring day on the slopes or snowshoes, guests can try out their innovative new treatment, the Farm-to-Massage-Table, an interesting twist on the gastronomic farm-to-table trend. The concept uses locally sourced and natural ingredients in its treatment.

Cristallo Spa & Golf, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

About two hours from Venice, in the Dolomites mountain range, sits the Cristallo Spa and Golf, a luxury resort that's also renowned for its world-class spa that includes everything from anti-jet lag facial treatments and Lomi Lomi massage, characterized by slow, winding movements that evoke the rippling of waves for long-lasting relaxation. The hotel is near the Olympic bobsleigh track for non-skiing thrill-seekers.

Montage Deer Valley, Park City, Utah

Montage Deer Valley only opened in 2010 but has already amassed a string of accolades from travel publications like Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure in categories like best hotel, spa and resort. This winter season, activities include cross-country ski, snowshoeing, tubing, ice-skating, snowmobiling, dog sledding, fly fishing and train rides. Guests can also visit nearby Utah Olympic Park to watch top athletes train in Nordic jumping, bobsled, luge and skeleton. AFP

Four Seasons, Whistler B.C.

As the largest ski resort in North America, the Four Seasons Whistler has earned itself a solid reputation among ski bunnies. But aside from skiing and snowboarding, the luxury resort offers another activity that's not exactly synonymous with winter: golf. On the 18th green, putters will be met with a PGA pro, board a private helicopter to fly 8,000 feet (2,438 metres), and undertake a glacier tee-off from the 19th hole. With tips from your personal PGA golf coach, participants get set to make their longest drive and slam their biodegradable golf ball into the abyss of the wintry Canadian mountain range.

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More to Miami than South Beach

Travel time. Known as a seaside playground, with ultra-chic hot-spots and sizzling beaches

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Miami is still synonymous with fun and sun. While there's plenty of that, the city also boasts much more. GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Downtown Miami: It's probably the only place in the U.S. where a man can get away with wearing a white blazer. GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

While Miami is still synonymous with "fun and sun," it's also evolved into a more cosmopolitan destination over the past five years, with an emphasis on art and culture.

"We've always had the excitement of South Beach and the waterfront cafés, but downtown Miami has become another great destination," said Rolando Aedo, CMO and EVP with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.

A few years ago, that was unheard of; the downtown core would empty out after the workday. Now it's enjoying a renaissance, where you'll see residents with baby strollers walking their dogs alongside some of the city's best new restaurants, shops and museums. Downtown Miami's Museum Park, for example, houses the new Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), designed by Herzog & de Meuron (the same architects that designed Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium).

Just north of the downtown core is the Wynwood Arts District, the epicentre of Miami's creative community. Neglected warehouses and shuttered factories have been transformed into art galleries, performing arts spaces, antique shops and eclectic bars, and the area features one of the largest open-air street art installations in the world.

"Practically every building has a mural by a street artist," said Aedo. "They're being commissioned by (building owners) to wrap buildings in amazing street art."

These neighbourhoods — as well as Miami's heritage neighbourhoods, such as Little Havana and Little Haiti — have become destinations unto themselves, he said.

In Little Havana, visitors can stroll the sidewalks, have a shot of high-octane Cuban coffee and watch grumpy old men playing dominos. "It's a truly authentic, organic experience," said Aedo. And Little Haiti — which offers art galleries, ethnic food and indie music — is a burgeoning centre for small independent businesses.

The city has also been investing in infrastructure that makes it easier for visitors to get around. It spent $8 billion to modernize its airport, which offers direct rail access to downtown Miami in 15 minutes, with free trolley and metro transit around the city.

Miami currently has about 45,000 hotel rooms and is adding an additional 8,000 rooms over the next five years. The Thompson Miami Beach — where art deco meets modern Miami — recently opened its doors, and Hong Kong's EAST brand is set to open its first U.S. property in Miami's downtown financial district in 2015.

But a visit to Miami would be remiss without taking in its iconic, art-deco hotels along South Beach. Back in the '80s, these buildings sat empty and dilapidated. "We can trace our success (in the tourism industry) to the saving and restoration of those art-deco hotels," said Aedo.

Miami Temptations

- The Miami Temptations program showcases a unique Miami experience each month, offering discounts and deals for visitors. In August, for example, Miami Spice offers deals on three-course meals by world-renowned chefs, showcasing the best of Miami cuisine.

Earn travel rewards up to 4x faster.[1]

No annual fee for the first year. Plus, get 20,000 bonus points, good for $200 in travel.[2]

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Manage your goals during the holidays

Career. 'Tis the season for stressful, stacked-up schedules. Here's how to figure it all out while still feeling festive.

CELINE TARRANT
TalentEgg.ca

Be realistic — know when to say 'no'

It's important to be realistic with yourself about how much you can get done.

- Despite your best intentions to be a productivity master during this busy season, everyone has limits.
- Take the time to really prioritize rather than just try to get as much done as possible.
- Pick your professional and social obligations carefully, and don't overcommit yourself. If you set the right priorities for yourself and stick to your to-do list, you can manage your professional goals during the holidays, and have a little fun, too.

On the heels of Halloween and Thanksgiving, December brings with it the busiest time of year for most people.

Along with an already hectic work schedule, you now have holiday parties, a never-ending list of gifts to buy, holiday traffic to beat and travel plans — and you still have to deliver on every deadline.

It's easy to let work get sidelined and pushed off until things calm down. Good time management is critical to make sure you can follow through on all your commitments, while still enjoying the holidays.

Here's how you can effectively manage your professional goals during the busy holiday season, and set yourself up for success in the New Year.

Make a list, and check it twice

If there was ever a time to truly embrace the to-do list, this is definitely it. Whether you use your Outlook calendar, an app, or pen and paper, commit to writing down every single obligation.

In addition to meetings and project deadlines, block out short chunks of uninterrupted work time where you don't check email or answer calls (when possible). Distraction-free work time does not exist during this busy time of year — unless you make it for yourself.

Include things that you might not usually put on your to-do list like shopping, parties, gym time, holiday baking, meal-prep, travel plans, and even when you plan to wake up and go to bed.

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in. Or maybe it will reveal where you are needlessly wasting precious time each day.

It's better to do the important things very well than try to take on everything at once. It will speak volumes about you as a professional if you can effectively prioritize. ISTOCK

As you complete each task, indulge in the satisfaction of crossing it off your list. These are small wins to be savoured every day.

Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize

After making such a detailed to-do list, it's tempting to try to power through it as fast as possible and get everything done, but this often results in burnout or a series of half-done jobs that need to be reworked in the New Year.

Be honest with yourself about what items are critical and which are not.

Get what you need from others

Business continuity is often a challenge during the holidays, with people on vacation or out sick.

For the love of lists

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in.

You're more likely to get an out-of-office email than an actual response, so it can seem impossible to move projects forward or get any real work done.

The last thing you want is to miss an important deadline because you forgot to collect a key piece of work from someone who just went on vacation.

Make sure you know what deliverables you need to progress your work, and follow up with people. Keep track of your team's and boss' vacation time so you schedule important meetings before they leave, and establish a contingency plan if something goes wrong.

Extend the same courtesy to others. Your boss may have approved your vacation, but gently reminding them is always a good idea so they aren't blindsided when you don't show up for two weeks.

Don't put professional development on the back burner

Remember that stack of whitepapers you've been meaning to read? Or that industry holiday party that you still haven't RSVP'd to attend? Despite competing demands for your time during the holidays, professional development should always be a priority for those who want to stay at the top of their game in today's job market.

Take advantage of your morning commute, long drives to visit out-of-town family, and vacation-bound flights to catch up on your industry reading, webinars, and to wish the people in your network happy holidays.

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*Not all programs have practicums. Contact campus for details.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

10 reasons to give

With just a few weeks left before Christmas, it's time to get serious about finishing your gift shopping. Have you considered getting friends or family members a gift card? While some people think they're a bit of a cop out, here are 10 reasons why Santa probably wraps up gift cards, too.

1. EASY TO BUY. If you don't enjoy shopping, buying a gift card online or from a store is simple and straightforward.

2. TIME IS RUNNING OUT. Gift cards are faster to buy than traditional gifts, according to a recent National Retail Council survey. According to Ottawa University student Kieran McKinnon: "In the super-stressful holiday season sometimes it becomes necessary to go for an approximation of what someone might like, rather than the actual thing."

3. ALL ABOUT THE RECIPIENT. Gift cards put the selection of gifts completely into the hands of the recipient. Says McKinnon: "Receiving a gift card gives someone the chance to choose exactly what they would like for Christmas." According to the NRC survey, more than half of us buy gift cards for this reason.

4. A PERFECT SOLUTION. If you know someone who has everything, a gift card is perfect.

5. IT WON'T GO TO WASTE. Let's say the recipient hasn't finished their shopping … a gift card is one of the easiest gifts to re-gift.

6. NO RESEARCH REQUIRED. Giving a gift card is a thoughtful gesture even when you don't know the recipient that well.

SHUTTERSTOCK

7. A SPECIAL GIFT. The person who receives a gift card has to buy something — and maybe something really special. Says Centennial College student Kelly-Celina Batris: "I like getting a gift card because it lets me buy things for myself that I might not have otherwise."

8. MAKE NO MISTAKE. There's no risk of disappointment with a 'wrong' gift or anyone having to return anything.

9. GOOD ON YOU. Provided you think about which card to give and it's appropriate, giving a gift card shows you put in effort.

10. PORTABILITY. A gift card is easy to send to friends or family who live a long ways away.

Give the gift of relaxation

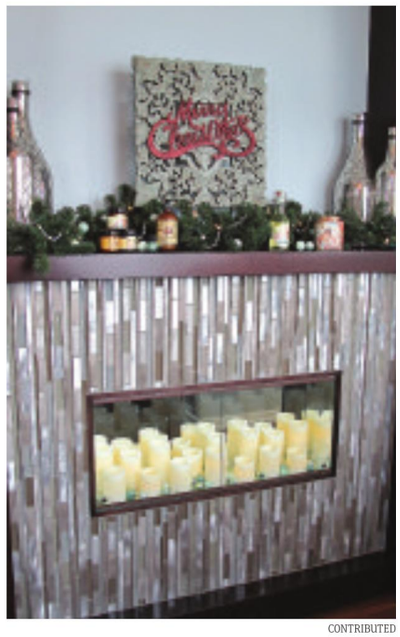
Rave Massage offers certificates

Finding the perfect holiday gift can be a challenge. You want to give something that is needed and will be appreciated but you don't what to spend all day fighting the traffic and holiday crowds to find it. And of course, the gift needs to be reasonably priced. Rave Massage helps solve this problem with its gift certificates, which are available in any denomination.

Rave Massage is a new locally owned massage therapy clinic that recently introduced a unique concept into the Winnipeg market: membership massage. "The membership model of massage is very popular in the U.S. and Eastern Canada," says owner Tracy Simmons. "So we figured it would work well in Winnipeg, too."

Rave Massage offers a special introductory rate of $54.95 for a one-hour massage. From there, clients can book a return visit at the regular rate, or if they like, can opt to sign up for a membership at a reduced rate by committing to one massage per month. "People love our membership option," says Simmons. "It helps them fit regular massage appointments into their busy schedule and saves them over $360 per year."

"We have 17 registered massage therapists on staff, making us one of the largest clinics in Winnipeg" Simmons adds. "All of our therapists' bios are listed online so people can choose the therapist that suits them the best. As well, we have hundreds of appointments available seven days per week, so booking an appointment that fits your schedule is never a problem. We also offer online booking."



CONTRIBUTED

Rave Massage gift certificates can be purchased in person or online.

To learn more, visit ravemassage.com; Unit G 1220 St. Mary's RD, across from St. Vital Mall, or call 204-416-RAVE (7283).

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Show someone you care by gifting a relaxation, therapeutic or hot stone massage in a spa like atmosphere. For your convenience, our gift certificates can be purchased online or in person.
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Gift cards perfect for the gamer in your life

PNP Games has something for all

For almost a decade, PNP Games has been Winnipeg's top location for video gamers. And with three convenient locations —- not to mention gift cards available in any denomination — it's never been easier to put entertainment in the palm of your hands.

And if you aren't sure what to get for that gamer on your list, or if you're a veteran gamer looking for a new challenge, PNP's elite-quality service can help you find the perfect present.

"It's all about knowing what customers want and providing it to them," says PNP owner Jade Pearce. "It sounds simple, but it can be tricky to do on a regular basis. We have great staff and a decade's worth of experience in the industry to help you find the perfect solution."

Whether you're looking for something for that next-generation system, or you're still enjoying your retro games, retail supervisor Lee Skwarek said the staff can help you find what you need.

"Customer service is the key to our success," Skwarek added. "Our staff is approachable, knowledgeable, and able to provide vital information on consoles and games — both current and retro.

"And, of course, a gift card is always the perfect choice, no matter what style of game or what system you're playing on."

PNP Games also offers disc media resurfacing to repair scratched discs, can replace dead batteries in older gaming cartridges and offers hardware repairs on most current generation consoles.It also boasts Manitoba's largest selection of classic games, including those designed for systems such as the original Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, PlayStation, Genesis and Xbox.

The store buys, sells and trades games, accessories and consoles for nearly every system. PNP Games also carries the latest releases and consoles including PlayStation 4, Wii U and Xbox One titles and accessories, along with hard-to-find items like branded toys and collectables.

"The gift of entertainment is one that's always appreciated whether it's for someone who's seven or 47 years old," Skwarek said. "If you're not sure what you want or need, we encourage people to come into our retail locations and talk to our friendly and knowledgeable staff.

"From gift cards to retro games to the newest titles and systems, it's easy to check off everyone on your list at PNP Games."

Visit one of PNP Games' convenient locations or online at pnpgames.com.

CONTRIBUTED

JOIN THE XP CLUB

The PNP Games XP Club launched in September 2012 and now boasts more than 3,000 members. For a on-time fee of $10, members get access to exclusive discounts, including 10 per cent off all used games. With each dollar spent, XP members also collect valuable reward points that can be redeemed for future purchases.

Do your gift cards a little differently

Get creative, personalize it, and have fun

• ***PERSONALIZED.*** Photogiftcard.com can help you make a prepaid and personalized gift card. Choose from the available gift card merchants, upload your image, add text, choose the value — and create the card.

• ***COMBO GIFTS.*** Get creative and wrap up a movie theatre gift card with an air popper and popcorn. Put a restaurant gift card in a takeout box. Fill a jar with the person's favourite candy and put a gift card down into the middle of the candy. Some retailers do it for you … at Starbucks, for example, you can buy an ornament for the Christmas tree that holds a gift card.

• ***EXPERIENCE.*** Wrap up an experience card. For example, at sambadays.com, the gift giver chooses the package (such as 'adventure', 'explore and learn', 'golf') and the amount. The recipient has to activate the card and choose the experience ranging from 'join a rock band' for $875 to 'Latin dance lessons' for $89 to a 'helicopter flight lesson' for $299.

• ***GIVE BACK.*** At canadahelps.org, pick a design for the gift card, a value, and add your own message. It will be delivered or you can hand deliver it, and then the recipient chooses the charity (and you get a tax receipt). Or, give a $100 gift card from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation (camh.ca), which allows the recipient to decide which Gifts of Light to give.

• ***DELIVERY INCLUDED.*** Amazon.ca will package a gift card in a free gift box shaped like a snowflake and mail it. If you need faster delivery, go online. Mountain Equipment Company, for example, will help you design a gift card (at MEC choose an outdoor shot), select an amount, provide email information … and the gift card will be delivered within 24 hours.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Give an Esso Gift Card.

Score fuel savings.

Pick up a $50 or $100 Esso Gift Card* at Esso stations from now until January 5, 2015 and we'll give you a BONUS PRICE PRIVILEGES™ fuel savings card** – good for 5¢/L savings on your next 100 litres of fuel.

Happy holidays from the Esso brand.

The Esso brand is a proud sponsor of Hockey Canada.

CANADA

* See Esso Gift Cards for details, terms and conditions. Valid only at Esso stations in Canada. Not reloadable. Any Esso Extra points to which the user will be entitled when the Esso Gift Card is used will be awarded only if the Esso Extra card is swiped at the time of purchase. **The PRICE PRIVILEGES cards will be available at participating Esso stations in Canada from November 11, 2014 to January 5, 2015 or while quantities last. The PRICE PRIVILEGES card expires on June 30, 2016 and has no value until it is activated. Visit **priceprivileges.ca** for full program terms and conditions. ®Official Mark of Hockey Canada. Esso, Esso Extra and PRICE PRIVILEGES are trademarks of Imperial Oil Limited. Imperial Oil, licensee.

These aren't mom's breakfast pancakes

This recipe makes 32 blinis. EMILY RICHARDS

Smoked Salmon Served on Buckwheat Blinis. Impress guests with an appetizer that offers various textures

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Entertaining this holiday season will be super easy if you have a few great recipes to keep on hand — like these Blinis.

When planning a get-together make sure that you are not alone in preparing some fun food. Switch things up by making the dishes with your friends and enjoying the company.

Digging into tasty morsels with a great glass of wine, cocktail or bubbly will be even more enjoyable if you've bonded over making them.

These tender little pancakes are topped with lemon cream cheese and smoked salmon. They are a perfect nibble for a night in with friends.

1. In a bowl, dissolve yeast in water and stir in 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) of the buttermilk; let stand for 10 minutes or until frothy.

2. In another bowl, combine both flours and salt. Sift flour mixture into the buttermilk mixture and stir until well combined. Stir in remaining buttermilk.

3. Whisk egg yolks into the batter. Cover and set aside in a warm place to rise for about 1 hour or until batter is bubbly.

4. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks and fold into the batter. Cover and let rise for 1 hour.

5. Lightly brush nonstick skillet with some melted butter and heat over medium high. Spoon 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the batter for each blini and cook for about 1 minute, until bubbles break through. Turn blini over and brown for another 30 seconds. Remove from pan, and place on a plate so they do not get soggy; repeat with remaining batter.

6. In a small bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon rind and juice. Spread some of the cream cheese mixture onto the blinis. Roll sliced salmon around your finger to create a rosette and place on blini. Sprinkle with green onions to serve if desired.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) traditional active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lukewarm water
- 1 3/4 cup (425 mL) lukewarm buttermilk
- 1 cup (250 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) buckwheat flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) thinly sliced smoked salmon
- Chopped green onions (optional)

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BFF RAFIKI FRIEND CHAIN
Cookies Secrets Tight Hugs Crossed Hearts

UGLY SWEATER RAFIKI FRIEND CHAIN- $10.00
Gives three pencils to one child

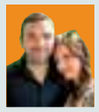
MAMA TOTI RAFIKI FRIEND CHAIN - $100.00
Gives a goat to a woman overseas!

BFF RAFIKI FRIEND CHAIN - $10.00
Gives medicine to one child

Food around the world

Vietnam (vegan rating: 7/10)

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.



MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegontheroad.tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Veg: Veg didn't encounter many problems in Hanoi, Cat Ba Island and Quan Lan Island. A decent rice, veg and tofu dish was never hard to find. Her fave meal was at a vegan restaurant in Hanoi. It came in six separate portions: A bean-based chicken substitute, tofu in a spicy sauce, shredded mango salad, fried morning glory, rice with coconut shavings and a veggie broth.

Meat: I became acquainted with Pho. Our hotel on the ultra-remote and beautiful Quan Lan Island served the best fare and here I enjoyed handmade shrimp spring rolls complete with tangy dip along with a refreshing and tasty Pho Bo or beef Pho, which came loaded with tender steak slivers.

Lunch. Open-faced Corn and Zucchini Omelette with Smoked Salmon

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a colander, toss zucchini with 1/2 tsp salt and stand over sink for 10 mins.

3. In oven-safe nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium. Add onion and cook until golden, about 5 mins. Set aside.

4. Using hands, squeeze small handfuls of zucchini to discard as much water as possible. Add squeezed zucchini to skillet with onion. Return skillet to heat and cook, stirring, 2 mins. Stir in corn, eggs and remaining tsp salt. Cook, lifting up edges of omelette to let uncooked egg mix flow under, until omelette is mostly set. Transfer to oven; bake 5 mins.

5. Meanwhile, in bowl combine yogurt, lemon zest and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, cut omelette into wedges and top each portion with quarter of salmon and lemon cream, sprinkling of dill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 lb zucchini, coarsely shredded
- 1 1/2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 2 tbsp vegetable or canola oil
- 1 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 8 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp each grated lemon zest/juice
- Ground black pepper
- 4 oz smoked salmon, cut into thin strips
- Chopped fresh dill, to garnish

NHL all-star voting

Girgensons pulls well ahead of superstar pack

Buffalo Sabres forward Zemgus Girgensons is skating away with the NHL all-star game fan vote.

As of Tuesday, the second-year player has a league-leading 803,805 votes — double what he had a week ago. And Girgensons' total is more than the combined number of votes cast for the next two forwards: Chicago stars Patrick Kane (375,758) and Jonathan Toews (367,692).

Girgensons credits his popularity to his Latvian fans back home. He leads Buffalo with eight goals but has only 14 points, well behind the NHL-leading 35 points shared by Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby and Dallas's Tyler Seguin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Samardzija traded to White Sox

The Oakland Athletics traded all-star right-hander Jeff Samardzija to the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

Right-hander Michael Ynoa also was dealt to Chicago. Oakland obtained right-hander Chris Bassitt, catcher Josh Phegley and infielders Rangel Ravelo and Marcus Semien.

Samardzija was 31-42 with a 3.97 ERA for the Chicago Cubs from 2008 until July 5, when he was traded to the A's. He went 5-6 with a 3.14 ERA for Oakland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Newton suffers fractures to back in car accident

Panthers quarterback Cam Newton suffered fractures to his lower back in a two-car crash Tuesday and will spend the night in the hospital, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

Newton was in fair condition, had no other internal injuries and would not need surgery, team spokesman Charlie Dayton said during a news conference outside a Charlotte hospital. It was unclear if Newton would be able to practise or play Sunday against the Buccaneers, Dayton said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowry tallies twice as Jets earn a W in Big D

Jets goalie Michael Hutchinson makes a save on Cody Eakin of the Stars on Tuesday in Dallas. Adam Lowry scored a pair of second-period goals, Hutchinson made 26 saves and the Jets won 5-2. Winnipeg improved its away record to 9-4-3. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Béliveau's widow moved to tears

Tribute to No. 4. Habs legend honoured with 15-minute ceremony before game vs. Canucks

Elise Béliveau salutes the crowd as she stands next to her husband Jean Béliveau's empty seat during a ceremony prior to the Canadiens-Canucks game on Tuesday night in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Bell Centre crowd stood and cheered for several minutes Tuesday night after a moving tribute to legendary captain Jean Béliveau ahead of the Montreal Canadiens' game against the Vancouver Canucks.

A 15-minute pre-game ceremony in honour of Béliveau, one of the team's iconic players and personalities who died last week at 83, caused his widow Elise Couture Béliveau to alternately weep, pray and thrust out her arms in thanks to the crowd.

The scoreboard screen was focused through the ovation on her, standing at her seat beside her daughter Helene and granddaughters Magalie and Mylene.

A chronology of his life and hockey career in pictures was shown on the screen, and another video tribute was shown after players from both teams went onto the ice and lined up inside the blue-lines.

Then a long moment of silence was followed by an even longer ovation for Béliveau, who won 10 Stanley Cups and served 10 years as captain of the Canadiens in a 20-year career from 1950 to 1971.

He was part of the Canadiens administration for another seven Cup victories.

The seat beside Béliveau's widow — three rows behind the Canadiens bench where he sat for nearly every home game — was left vacant, with his No. 4 on it.

The number 4 was also painted on the ice behind both nets.

A funeral mass is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at Mary Queen of the World cathedral near the Bell Centre. Several stars of past Canadiens teams will take part in the proceedings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadiens 3, Canucks 1

Tomas Plekanec scored the winner late in the third period to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 3-1 victory over the visiting Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday.

- Brendan Gallagher also scored for Montreal (18-10-2), while Max Pacioretty added an empty-net goal at 19:59 of the third.
- Derek Dorsett scored for Vancouver.

4 SPORTS

2015 Subaru Legacy

- **Type.** Four-door, AWD midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.5-litre flat four (175 hp), 3.6-litre flat six (256)
- **Transmission.** Manual six-speed, automatic CVT
- **Price.** $25,090 base, $26,390 as tested

Market position

Competitor to mainstream sedans, but with the Subaru differentiators of AWD and horizontally opposed engine designs (a.k.a. flat or boxer). Traditionally appealed to slightly cultish customers willing to pay a premium for AWD and non-flashy looks. Subaru is now trying to make Legacy appeal to a larger customer base.

Points

- Legacy just named Best New Family Car Under $30,000 by the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada.
- Same footprint as previous model, with the same engines, but increased space and fuel economy, aided by new aerodynamic styling, electric power steering, and active front grille shutters.
- The only vehicle in its class with standard full-time AWD.

The new cabin is roomy — front and back — and much quieter.

Safety features

- Optional EyeSight system includes adaptive cruise control, pre-collision braking and throttle control, and lane sway and departure warning.
- AWD system can apply brake pressure to assist handling on corners.
- Optional steering-responsive fog lights, and rear/side vehicle detection system.

Less quirky, more appealing

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

Review. Subaru Legacy is now refined, roomy and quiet, trading its former niche status for a mainstream audience

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Nobody in the automotive world works a niche better than Subaru. Stuff all-wheel drive and a boxer engine into any vehicle format and presto! You've got yourself a Subaru, and a smallish but dedicated group of customers who will gladly partake, because they like being different, and they really like AWD.

But living in a niche can wear on you. They're small and cramped, and with poor ventilation and soundproofing — you can hear the crowds in the bigger suites laughing it up all hours in the morning.

So Subaru did the only sensible thing when it came time to overhaul the Legacy sedan for 2015. It angled it more toward the sweet spot of the midsize sedan market, where huge crowds of North American buyers shop. The result is great midsize sedan, which looks and feels like more like the new Camry than the previous Legacy.

In fact, a Legacy 2.5i model was just named AJAC's Best New Family Car Under $30,000, a category that included the new Toyota Camry and the new Chrysler 200. Those two were the match of Legacy in pretty much every category, except safety. Some of Legacy's high safety score was achieved by the optional Eyesight package, which includes adaptive cruise control and pre-collision braking and throttle control.

My base 2.5i tester didn't have those features, but did include a rear-view camera, cushion airbags and a standard AWD system that can apply brake pressure to the inside front wheel to assist cornering.

The Legacy's interior decor and features now match anything in its class.

Subaru was known for not sweating the interior decor and features as much as their powertrain and AWD systems, but the Legacy's new cabin matches anything in its class. The new interface with a 6.2-inch touchscreen is not too complicated, and includes knobs and buttons for major functions. The (finally) up-to-date audio system offers satellite radio, auxiliary input, steering-wheel controls, and Bluetooth for smartphones and streaming audio. Nice.

The cabin is also roomy — front and back — and offers a level of quiet not previously associated with Subaru. Liquid-filled engine mounts, an acoustic windshield, lots of sound insulation, and a more aerodynamic body shape all contribute to the increased serenity.

That body shape is a bit generic to these eyes, and not one that will stand out in a crowded parking lot. All part of that plan to blend in more, I guess.

The 175-hp engine and CVT offer up no surprises, just thoroughly civilized propulsion entirely in keeping with the expectations of this mainstream segment. In combination with the new electric steering, which is precise but feels somewhat disconnected from the road, you have a laid-back but sorted-out driving experience that should appeal to easygoing drivers and their families.

The Legacy is much closer to its rivals than ever before, which is good for Subaru and good for lots of buyers, but maybe just a tiny bit sad for those of us who don't want diversification and quirkiness to completely disappear.

Compare

1 Ford Fusion SE AWD
Base price: $31,399
Only other midsize AWD sedan not from a premium brand.

2 Toyota Camry
Base price:$25,370
Dependable and comfy, now with a bit more attitude.

3 Chrysler 200
Base price: $24,190
All-new and aggressively priced.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you dream about moving up in the world there is a chance that it might happen this week. At the very least you will lay the foundations for future success.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The restrictions you have been labouring under in recent days will fade over the next 24 hours. Your attitude will be more positive too, giving you a greater sense of freedom.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Stick to the facts today, especially when dealing with money. If you are tempted to make a decision for sentimental reasons it could easily backfire.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today you will find it easier to be more outgoing and sociable and that's good because you have been a bit too self-obsessed of late. You're allowed to have fun — and look for love.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have many good ideas but how many will amount to anything? If you are not sure which ones have selling potential ask someone who is likely to know.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
All things are possible for you now, Virgo, so set your sights high and don't stop until you have reached your goal. You will be amazed how easily things come to you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Cosmic activity in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart could make you more emotional than usual but maybe that's no bad thing.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What you say today will have far-reaching effects for months to come, so think before you speak and strive to be positive.

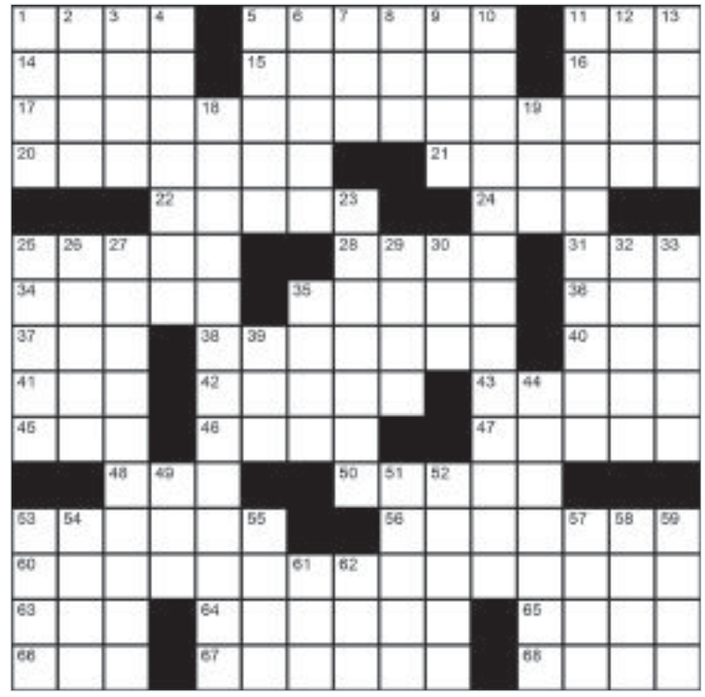
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Turn your attention to financial matters. You may have spent a lot recently and with values planet Venus moving into the money area of your chart you must find ways to save.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The entry of love planet Venus into your sign today means you can expect good news concerning a long-term relationship. Difficulties will ease over the next few days.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
For someone who is confident you seem thin-skinned right now. Could it be because you realize that criticisms being leveled at you are true? Why not just admit you were wrong?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Put your worries behind you and have fun with your friends. Some will say you're neglecting your responsibilities but you can ignore them. You need to take a break.

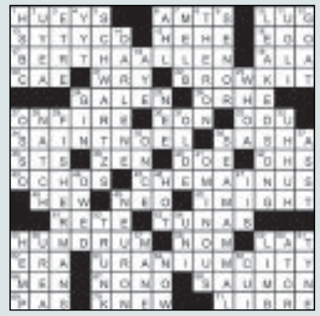
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Bugs Bunny's foe Elmer
5. Duty
11. Neil Young's "Old __"
14. "Dies __": Latin hymn
15. Shots __ __ (Hockey statistics)
16. Rock-__ (Classic jukebox company)
17. "__-__ __": Tragically Hip tune with the line "I stole this from a hockey card..."
20. Bruce Springsteen & The _ __ Band
21. First season player
22. Assumed name
24. Nero's 511
25. Language of Sri Lanka
28. VIP's vehicle
31. Sports org.
34. John Hersey's bell town
35. Rice dish
36. "Gosh."
37. Marcel Marceau's clown
38. Demolishing one
40. Zippy dance
41. Tubular fish
42. Cloistered chaps
43. #41-Across ...in sushi bars
45. Regret
46. __ Reader (Alternative press magazine)
47. Charles of "Gaslight" (1944)
48. French possessive
50. Little Richard's "__ __ Up"
53. Certain chambers
56. Feminist Gloria
60. Canadian painter from Montreal (b.1906 - d.1993) ...her works include Harbour and Milkweed: 3 wds.
63. Sisqo's group, __ Hill
64. Lemon juicer
65. Cupid's Greek counterpart
66. Drake's music
67. Vintage model for Chrysler
68. Gus Van __ (Director)

Down
1. __ and drum (Marching band duo)
2. Mr. Geller's
3. Music duo, __ Punk
4. Get off the choo-choo
5. Moviedom's Marisa
6. Ms. Ekberg
7. "Pretty Woman" (1990) actor ...his initials-sharers
8. Cyclades island
9. Impartial
10. As per #11-Down... bit of Lorde's song "Yellow Flicker Beat": "My blood is a __ __ __, precious stones..."
11. "The Hunger Games: __ - Part 1" (2014)
12. Jai __
13. Scruff
18. Product by American food brand French's: 2 wds.
19. Night: Latin
23. More glossy
25. Southern Alberta town
26. "Bon voyage!"
27. Quebec is the world's biggest producer of what?: 2 wds.
29. Classes
30. Ms. West
32. Neutral tone
33. Norse sea god
35. Philadelphia's puny place
39. Decay
44. Posters
49. Prefix with 'dermis'
51. Small island
52. Prefix meaning 'Feather'
53. RCN rank
54. Uncommon, in Latin
55. Snick-or-__
57. Canadian painter Ms. Collyer (b.1898 - d.1979)
58. Collar type
59. __. __. Helens, Wash.
61. Volkswagen slogan, __ Auto.
62. 'I love', in Latin

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3	5				2	8	
4			8		3			7
			7					9
			2					1
			4					5
		1					9	
	9					6		
8					1			
6	7	2	9		8	1	4	3

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Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5	1
4	5	7	1	2	3	8	9	6
3	1	6	9	8	5	2	4	7
5	6	2	4	9	8	1	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	4	6	9
9	4	1	6	3	7	5	8	2
2	7	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
6	3	8	5	7	2	9	1	4
1	9	5	3	4	6	7	2	8

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HWY: 7.4L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM▼

Sport 2.0T model shown♦

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WAS $17,630 | NOW $12,995‡
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CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

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U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating▲

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown♦

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®The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $12,995/$24,995 available on all remaining new in stock 2015 Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,795, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual/2015 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96 months. Weekly payments are $33/$59. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Financing example: 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual for $13,780 at 0% per annum equals $33 weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of $13,780. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $13,780. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,595, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $4,635/$3,835/$7,000 available on in stock 2015 Elantra L 6-speed manual/2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/2015 Genesis Coupe 3.8L GT. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Elantra Limited/2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/2014 Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/2015 Sonata Limited are $27,380/$41,580/$20,880/$32,830. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,795/$1,595/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Elantra 2.0 Limited (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM); 2014 Accent 4-Door GLS Auto (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM); 2015 Sonata 2.0T Ultimate (HWY 7.4L/100KM; City 10.4L/100KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ‡†♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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